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Message Text

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64
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NOVEMBER 30, 1973.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT UK (N.I.)
SUBJECT: UNIONIST VIEWS ON TRIPARTITTE TALKS.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS ON NOVEMBER 29 BY UNIONIST LEADER FAULKNER HIS SUPPORTER ASSEMBLYMAN PETER MACLACHLAN AND A DISSILLUSIONED SUPPORTER ANNOUNCING HIS DEFECTION INDICATE PRIORITIES UNIONISTS ARE BRINGING TO TRIPARTITE TALKS. THEY ARE DEMAND THAT REPUBLIC RECOGNIZE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND EFFECTIVELY SUPPRESS IRA ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT THE NORTH WHILE REFRAINING FROM ANY INTERFERENCE IN NORTHERN INTERNAL AFFAIRS END SUMMARY.

1. ULSTER UNION PARTY LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE BRIAIN FAULKNER IN NOVEMBER 29 STATEMENT STATED UNIONIST ATTITUDE IN COMING TRIPARTITE TALKS . UNIONISTS BELIEVED ALL PEOPLE IN IRELAND HAVE COMMON INTEREST IN PEACE, IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COORDINATION AND PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT IRISH TRADITIONS. UNIONISTS PROPOSE THAT COUNCIL OF IRELAND BE SET UP TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES. FAULKNER CONTINUED "THERE ARE SOME PREREQUISITES WHICH I HOPE WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT. FIRSTLY THERE MUST BE ENDING OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY OF
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NORTHERN IRELAND. SECONDLY THERE MUST BE A RECOGNITION THAT ONLY

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BY THE DEMOCRATICALLY EXPRESSED WILL , NOT THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE VOTING IN A BORDER POLL CAN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS BE ALTERED" FAULKNER HOPED TALKS WOULD LEAD TO AGREEMENT ON MEASURES TO BRING TO JUSTICE TERRORISTS OPERATING "ON ANY PART OF THESE ISLANDS" THIS WOULD BE "THE BEST POSSIBLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR A COUNCIL OF IRELAND" THE UNIONISTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND" UNIONISTS ENVISAGE THAT COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIST OF EQUAL NUMBER OF MINISTERS FROM GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC AND TAKE ALL DECISIONS BY UNANIMITY MAIN FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL WOULD BE TO DISCUSS SOCIAL/ECONOMIC MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE COORDINATED ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC AND OF NORTHERN IRELAND OR JOINT APPROACH ON REGIONAL POLICY WITHIN EEC, PROGRESS IN ELIMINATION OF TERRORISM AND POSSIBLE FURTHER MEASURES TO THAT END AND "MEANS OF FOSTERING BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIFFERING POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS HELD BY THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH ISLES "COUNCIL CAN HAVE NO SAY IN CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. (PLEDGES) UNIONIST ASSEMBLYMAN PETER MACLACHLAN IN SPEECH SAME DAY SAID HIS PARTY HOPED TALKS WOULD LEAD TO POSITIVE GAINS ON "THE RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE REPUBLIC, AND ALSO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPERLY FUNCTIONING EXTRADITION MACHINERY. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS" MCLACHLAN HEAVILY STRESSED THAT COUNCIL COULD ONLY BE CONSULTATIVE AND COULD NOT CARRY WITH IT "BLANK CHECK" FOR SOUTHERN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NORTH.

3. CROMAC UNIONIST ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN ROBERT STEWART WHO HAD SUPPORTED FAULKNER ON POWER-SHARING AS RECENTLY AS LAST WEEK AT ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL SAID IN NOVEMBER 29 SPEECH THAT FACT THAT EXECUTIVE COULD NOT BE FORMED UNTIL AFTER TRIPARTITE TALKS (CONTARY TO CONSTITUTION ACT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO COUNCIL OF IRELAND) IN EFFECT ADMITS RIGHT OF DUBLIN GOVERNMENT TO "HAVE A SAY IN THE CONFIRMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE" STEWART "CANNOT SUPPORT THE EVIDENT POLICY OF THE FORMATION OF AN EXECUTIVE ON THIS BASE" SPEECH WAS DISTRIBUTED BY UNIONIST HQ (WHICH FAULKNER CONTROLS) AND WAS TAKEN IN ONE NEWSPAPER TO REPRESENT DEFECTION BY FAULKNER SUPPORTER. AT LEAST, IT RE-EMPHAIZES TENUOUS CHARACTER OF UNIONIST SUPPORT FOR POWER-SHARING AND THEREFORE POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR FAULKNER TO
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ADOPT STRONG POSITION AT TRIPARTITE TALKS.
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